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RICH MOLYBDENUM DEPOSITS FOUND;  
SHIPYARD GETS SECOND BLAST FURNACE

MINE OUTPUT TO IMPROVE -- Politika, No 13363, 8 Oct 49

Prospecting in the neighborhood of Mackatica has shown that the molybdenum mine there will be producing more of this mineral in 2 years than any other mine in the world, with one exception, can produce.

Thus far the mine has been exploited only for export to the USSR. Exploitation has been carried on thus far under such wasteful and primitive mechanical conditions that expansion has been almost out of the question. World market prices are lower than the cost of production.

In 1947, plans were drawn up for modernizing the mine. According to the Five-Year Plan, all the necessary preliminary work is to be done by the end of 1951, and during the second Five-Year Plan production will be ten times greater than during and just after the war.

Thus far, the only facility for transporting ore has been one small-capacity ropeway. Now, a 15-kilometer road is being built from Belo Polje to the entrance of the mine, and a tunnel over 5 kilometers long will lead to a shaft with modern elevator equipment for ore and personnel. Several electric locomotives have already been acquired.

A hydroelectric power plant to be built on the Garevnica Rijeka (River) will furnish power to the mine. A waterfall of over 200 meters will turn the turbines.

Recent prospecting has shown that large and much richer deposits lie under the four layers thus far exploited. A surface mine is being prepared. The reserves discovered at Mackatica should yield ore for dozens of years.

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OIL-SHALE EXPLOITATION BEGUN -- Politika, No 13364, 9 Oct 49

The Five-Year Plan calls for the production of 450,000 tons of petroleum per year by the end of 1951. Twenty to 30 percent of this amount will come from deposits of oil shale in various parts of Yugoslavia.

The unsatisfactory pipe formerly obtained from abroad for use in the Lendava oil wells is now beginning to be replaced by pipe made in Yugoslavia in the Jesenice factory, and drill fittings are beginning to arrive from the "Djuro Djakovic" factory in Slavonski Brod.

Dozens of tank cars loaded with petroleum have been received from the rich deposits of oil shale discovered recently at the foot of the Osogovske Planine (Mountains) and Suva Planina, and in Dalmatian and Macedonian karst regions. One installation has already been built at Sinj and another is under construction. At the Senjski Rudnik (Mine), Rasa, Podvis, and some other mines the shale, which occurs with the coal, will be utilized. The richest deposits to date have been found in the vicinity of the Zletovo mine.

Condensation of the gases formerly required 104 hours, and only about 30 percent of the crude oil was removed. As the result of a new invention by a Yugoslav technician, the condensation requires only 16 hours, and about 70 percent of the crude oil is removed from the shale.

The oil-shale plant at Subotinacka Kosa in the Aleksinac Mountains began production on 1 May 1949. This small enterprise will soon be transformed into a large combine with dozens of chimneys instead of a single Mailer blast furnace.

PETROLEUM DERIVED FROM SHALE -- Borba, No 240, 9 Oct 49

On 1 October, in the village of Miranovac, near Bela Palanka, an installation for processing oil shale was completed, and equipment for deriving petroleum and other derivatives was put into operation.

Prospecting at Miranovac has shown that the strata of thick shale there extend for more than 100 kilometers. Exploitation began less than 7 months ago. The shale is cut both in surface mines and in pits. Railroad tracks were built by volunteer labor.

Two furnaces are now in operation there. Petroleum, gasoline, paraffin, machine oil, and coke are obtained from the black liquid that condenses when the shale is heated. More equipment with much greater capacity is to be built later. An industrial railroad line between Miranovac and Bela Palanka will be begun in 1950.

BLAST FURNACE NEARS COMPLETION -- Borba, No 244, 13 Oct 49

The first blast furnace for making steel was built at the "Treci Maj" Shipyard in Rijeka less than 3 months ago. This was the first ever built in Yugoslavia. The parts are being assembled in the Ironworks in Sisak, and the furnace will soon be producing steel for new railroad lines, tractors, automobiles, etc.

The second blast furnace for use in making steel is under construction at the "Treci Maj" Shipyard, where it and all its equipment will soon be completed. Its construction will require only about one-third of the time required by the first, and will be much cheaper. The furnace will be completed well before the deadline, which is 31 December 1949.

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